

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H. 3486**

(Doc. No. 11247ab07.doc)

TO:	The Honorable Billy Witherspoon, Chairman, House Agriculture, Natural Resource & Environmental Affairs Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	R.J. Stein, Beth Campbell		
DATE:	May 4, 2007	SBD:	2007340

AUTHOR:	Representative Gullick	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	49-21-55
SUBJECT:	Review of water quality data		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 3486 amends the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 49-21-55 requiring the Department of Health & Environmental Control to review water quality and flow data from streams affected by neighboring states. The Bill also requires the Attorney General to pursue actions needed to cause neighboring states to improve water quality or flow to acceptable levels.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:Department of Health & Environmental Control

The Department estimates that gathering, testing water samples and evaluating data would require 4.00 Environmental Health Managers and 2.00 Chemists. Costs are estimated at \$660,131 in the first year (including \$251,000 in non-recurring costs for office furnishings, one vehicle and laboratory equipment.) Annual costs thereafter are estimated at \$409,131 for salaries, fringe benefits and operating expenses.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

The Department reports that its Hydrology Section does not monitor water quality data, but does monitor water flow data. Therefore, there is no impact on DNR resulting from enactment of this Bill.

Attorney General's Office

Depending on changes in water quality and flow data the Attorney General's Office anticipates the need for an additional five positions. These positions include two attorneys, two paralegals and one administrative assistant at an annual cost to the General Fund of \$378,045 for salary, fringe and other operating expenses. This estimate is based on the assumption that the Attorney General's Office is required to pursue all possible damages for the State.

Summary

First year impact on the General Fund of the State can be estimated at \$1,038,176 (including eleven FTEs) and \$787,176 annually thereafter depending on changes in water quality and flow data.

Approved by:



Harry Bell

Assistant Director, Office of State Budget